

**NAME:** DISCOVER UGANDA

**LENGTH:** 7 DAYS

**CATEGORY:** PRIVATE DEPARTURE

**COMFORT:** DELUXE

**PLACES/PARKS:** Kampala, Lake Mburo, Bwindi Impenetrable NP, Queen Elizabeth NP, Kibale NP



Day 1 - Welcome to the Pearl of Africa! Arrival at Entebbe Airport where you will be welcomed and transferred to your restored colonial hotel by Great Lakes Safaris (5-10 minutes). KARIBU GUESTHOUSE (no meals)

Day 2 - After a relaxed breakfast, we will depart the capital city and head west to Fort Portal, with lunch en route. Fort Portal rests in the shadow of the fabled “Mountains of the Moon” and is famous for the many tea plantations. From this lovely town we will continue to Kibale National Park. Kibale Forest National Park harbors the greatest variety and concentration of primates found anywhere in East Africa. Not less than 13 different species are living in this small area of 560 sq km, including Black-and-White Colobus Monkeys, Blue Monkeys and Grey-cheeked Mangabeys. More important, the dense forest hosts a population of more than 1,000 chimpanzees, allowing visitors the unique opportunity to view these great apes in their natural environment. Just outside the national park you will find Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary, offering a number of walking trails in the Magombe Swamp. TURACO TREETOPS (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 3 - Today the forest opens for a sensational chimp tracking. Kibale Forest is reputable of having the greatest variety and highest concentration of primates in East Africa. After a pre-tracking briefing at walking distance from your accommodation, you will start your hike adventure into the forest. Follow the footsteps of a large habituated family of chimpanzees, with over 120 individuals that has made Kibale one of the best locations in Africa for chimp viewing.

En route your guide will explain more about the forest and the other inhabitants, including other primates and birds such as the blue breasted Kingfisher, black billed Turaco, Pied Hornbill, Chestnut winged Starlings and many more. Upon sighting the chimpanzees, you will stay with them for one unforgettable hour as they continue their daily routine – growling, grooming, feeding, taking care of the young ones and agilely climbing up trees. It certainly is one unforgettable wildlife encounter and the hour is always over too soon.

After your forest walk, return to the lodge for lunch. In the afternoon we transfer to Bigodi Village for a community walk that will bring you closer to the local tribe that lives in this area. Accompanied by a local guide, who can tell you everything about the traditional customs and lifestyle, you will follow the village path and visit a primary school, traditional homesteads and learn more about the crops in the fields.

TURACO TREETOPS (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 4 – After an early breakfast we head to depart for Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, home of the endangered mountain gorillas. En route we will pass the vast savannah plains of Queen Elizabeth National Park where we will go in search of the tree climbing lions. Enjoy a picnic lunch en route before we finally reach Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, for an overnight in the

middle of the African jungle.

HAVEN LODGE BUHOMA (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 5 – Arise early today and prepare for the highlight of your safari, an unforgettable encounter with the Gentle Giants!

Following breakfast, transfer to the national park offices where you will be allocated a gorilla family in groups of 8 as well as a gorilla tracking guide. After a pre-tracking briefing by your guide touching on the gorillas generally, your assigned gorilla family as well as appropriate safety precautions, you drive to the trailhead for the start of a thrilling adventure. Expect to walk between 2 and 8 hours in steep and sometimes muddy conditions with rain overhead, which can be tough and require a degree of (average) fitness. However, the thrill of coming face to face with a giant Mountain Gorilla silverback completely makes up for the effort!

**Please remember to bring your passport for registration, appropriate, water proof hiking boots and a light rain coat. To protect from stinging nettles, we recommend long pants and long sleeved tops. A pair of old gardening gloves can help grabbing onto the vegetation while most hotels/lodges provide a walking stick that comes in very handy especially when hiking downhill. A small waterproof backpack is an excellent idea to carry a light snack, bottled water as well as protection for your camera.**

Of the over 800 mountain gorillas worldwide, Bwindi National Park is home to almost half of the gorilla population. There is no better place for observing these gentle giants from a close distance! Thanks to the wildlife conservation program, the number of gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable Forest only has increased from 300 to 400 in the recent years, which include nine different families that are habituated for tourism purposes. Apart from the famous residents, the dense forest hosts 9 other primates. There are different trails in the park, including the Munyanga River Trail and Waterfall Trail, leading through the pristine rainforest to three sparkling waterfalls.

Upon sighting the gorillas, you spend the allowed one hour with them as they go about their daily life; feeding, moving, playing, raising their young and sometimes wrestling by the juveniles – it is a totally unique and unforgettable experience!

HAVEN LODGE BUHOMA (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 6 - After breakfast we depart the impenetrable forest of Bwindi and head to Lake Mburo National Park. As we enter the park it is likely that you will spot some wildlife. After checking in you will go on a boat ride on the lake to view the rich bird life and many hippos that are cooling off. Have an early dinner before going on an optional (at extra fee) night game drive in an open Landrover with spot light. This special game drive of 2-3 hours provides good chances of seeing the elusive leopard and of course other nocturnal animals. En route we shall stop at Igongo Cultural Centre for lunch. The cultural centre illustrates the culture and traditional way of life of the local tribes in this area, including a museum, garden with indigenous trees and plants and traditional homesteads.

RWAKOBO ROCK (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 7 - Early start of the day we will go for a bush walk guided by a ranger. Experience a safari on foot that will allow you to notice the smaller, often overlooked, details and usually brings you much closer to the wildlife than when in a car.

Return the lodge for breakfast and with a game drive on our way out we depart the protected area and back towards the capital city. En-route we will pass the Equator where we will make a stop for lunch, photos and souvenir shopping. In time you will be dropped at Entebbe Airport for your international flight.

(Breakfast, Lunch)